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Lodi Texas Postal Customer, Robert Calhoun
P.O. Box 1
Lodi, Texas 75564

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW
Suite 200
Washington DC 20268-001

Dear Concerned Parties:

The purpose of this letter is to appeal the closing of the Lodi Texas post office retail facility. Many genuine concerns were expressed by the fraction of the facility's actual customers who were able to attend a June 7, 2011 meeting with Postal Service representatives, the response to which has been generally unsatisfactory, disappointing, and, in some cases, ignored.

Lodi is officially in Marion County, but geographically sits on the county line with Cass County which is where the June 7 meeting was held (Watts Chapel, 4738 FM RD 2683). A large percentage of the retail facility's customers live in Cass County and will receive rural route delivery from Bivins Texas under this proposal. Bivins Texas is 12 to 15 miles away from many of these customers and will either add a greatly expanded load to existing carriers from Bivins or will require the hiring of an additional carrier(s). Either solution will significantly compromise the projected savings of closing the Lodi facility even if the additional transportation costs (fuel, purchase and maintenance of vehicles to serve the expanded areas, etc.) are not considered.

Bivins, which is near Atlanta Texas, has not hitherto been linked with Lodi which is more associated with Linden for Cass County residents. It is also a part of the Linden area school district- not Bivins or Atlanta. One can only imagine the confusion and increase of misdelivered mail associated with rural route delivery with this move.

One answer given for meeting the retail needs of the Cass County customers and those who require the safety of a post office box is the Kildare Texas Post Office under this proposal. The fact is that this facility (Kildare) is also on the chopping block for closure. Apparently, it will be just a matter of time until this solution will no longer be an available option.

Apparently, some special needs customers of the Lodi facility have already requested home delivery in the past and been denied because certain Post Office guidelines for road approval was not met. In the continuing absence of their ability to meet these criteria, closure of the Lodi facility will incur even greater hardship on these individuals.

A suggestion was made to and rejected by representatives at the June 7 meeting to (not increase) adjust the hours of Lodi's operations to later times on certain days. This would accommodate customers and potential customers who work the same hours that the Post Office is opened. Refusal to consider this idea is tantamount to cutting themselves off from a potential increase of revenue and customer service at this facility.

It is also claimed that the Lodi facility is being closed because the position of Postmaster is vacant. However, no effort has been made to fill that vacancy. If an attempt were made to fill that position, many qualified applicants are ready and willing to accept that responsibility. It is a self-fulfilling dilemma that there is no current Postmaster if the responsible parties will not hire one.

Additionally, this facility is said to have been operated without a Postmaster for the past four years. So, the concept of having to shut down operations because there is no postmaster seems completely bogus. Either make the position available, or run without a Postmaster like you have since 2007.

This Post Office is small but vital to the citizenry dependent on its unique and special, concrete and intangible assets. These assets will not be replaced by the suggested alternatives. Its presence is a landmark in this community. I and the other customers of the Lodi Texas Post Office implore you to reconsider the decision to close.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Calhoun". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Calhoun" clearly distinguishable.

Robert Calhoun